

western edge of our largest city, Santa Rosa. Known as "West County," the 5th District is Sonoma County's most progressive with a vibrant and diverse population of ethnicity, sexual orientation and economic backgrounds. Mike Reilly, with his intelligence, people skills and encyclopedic knowledge of politics represented every one of his constituencies.

Mike is a Bay Area native born on May 27, 1944 in San Mateo, California. Always interested in politics, his first office was senior class president at Hayward High and later, student body president at Chabot College. Mike was an Army volunteer and served two years in Okinawa. The young veteran returned to the Bay Area after completing his tour of duty and began working as a youth counselor. He became one of the founders and eventually Executive Director of the Hayward-based Project Eden, a non-profit organization that offered drug counseling to the city's "street kids."

In 1977, Mike moved to Sonoma County to begin working for the county's drug and alcohol program, again as a counselor to youth. Mike settled in Forestville and soon became active in west county politics, no doubt influenced by his neighbor, Ernie Carpenter, who became the 5th District Supervisor in 1978.

From 1981 to 1985, Mike served as Administrative Assistant to state Assemblyman Dan Hauser, whose 1st District ran from Sonoma County to the Oregon border. During his tenure with Hauser, Mike was a key player in the designation of the Lost Coast Sinkyone Wilderness Area for public use, drafting initial legislation banning oil and gas development in Northern California state waters, the restoration of the Point Arena Pier, and regional issues pertaining to fishing and timber extraction.

In 1986 Mike Reilly became Executive Director of West County Community Services, a non-profit that grew from a 70's era all volunteer "River Switchboard," to an organization offering a variety of services for people of all ages. Under Mike's leadership, West County Community Services developed an excellent drug and alcohol abuse programs, led in the establishment of the Russian River Senior Center and the Sebastopol Teen Center and opened a homeless shelter. For thirteen years, Mike also served as a trustee for the Forestville Elementary School District and the West County High School District.

When Supervisor Carpenter announced his retirement from public office in 1995, Mike Reilly embarked on a grueling eighteen month campaign to successfully succeed him. Mike's hard fought campaign and subsequent service allowed him to coast to two unopposed reelection victories in the years ahead. These were not years without challenges, however, including huge floods on the lower Russian River in 1997 and 1999, years of underfunded services in rural areas and the heavily urbanized Roseland area in the district, and a sometimes lonely role as an environmental advocate on the Board of Supervisors.

Despite these difficulties Mike was able to force agreements that led to county support of home elevation program on the flood prone Russian River, the formation of the Russian River Redevelopment District, and ordinances regulating forest conversions and vineyard grading, as well as untangling hundreds of county problems for his constituents. Mike was also a powerful presence on the County's

Open Space and Agricultural Preservation District, and instrumental in protecting thousands of acres of land under county ownership or conservation easements.

During the same 12 years, Mike also served on the California Coastal Commission, including two years as the Commission's Chair. He has been recognized by statewide environmental groups as having the strongest conservation record of any of the publically elected members of the Commission.

I would also note that Mike Reilly is a key player in moving forward the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act, a bill that would provide permanent protection for the entire Sonoma Coast. Mike led successful efforts to endorse the bill by both the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission. With our new Administration these efforts will result in passage.

This year Mike is celebrating another 12-year anniversary, his marriage to Judi, which took place on January 25, 1997, in a home in Guerneville in the midst of a flood emergency. Mike and Judi, their three daughters, Kimberly, Sheri and Kelly, as well as Kelly's husband Stewart and their son, Stetson, and Sheri's fiancé, Will, make up a loving and supportive family with great political energy and philosophies.

Although Mike has retired from the Board of Supervisors, we will not let him leave us. He continues to serve as a board member of Coastwalk, California's unique coastal education program and on New Ways to Work, a national non-profit that is finding ways to train youth for the new economy. Knowing of Mike's energy, his intelligence and his savvy, his can-do attitude, we expect that although Mike will be able to play more golf now, he will continue to exert his powerful and positive influence on our community and our world.

#### HONORING WILLIAM MARK FELT

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a singular American who helped our democracy triumph in one of our darkest moments.

I speak of William Mark Felt, a former Associate Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who was instrumental in uncovering the great abuse of presidential power known as Watergate. Mark Felt died on December 18, 2008, in Santa Rosa, California in my district, more than 30 years after retiring from a career that included major roles in the turbulent and sometimes troubling history of the FBI.

It was Mark Felt's role of whistleblower in the Watergate affair that led to the resignation of President Nixon that will forever ensure his place in history. For Mark Felt was "Deep Throat" the inside informant of Bob Woodward of the Washington Post. Mark was the person who that lent credibility and verification to Woodward's and Carl Bernstein's investigation of what lay behind the 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters at the Watergate Hotel.

Over the next two years, Americans learned that the Watergate break-in was conducted by the same team of burglars who had attempted to discredit another whistleblower, Daniel Ellsberg, who had leaked revelations about government lies about the Vietnam War to the New York Times. Through the press and congressional investigations they discovered that the President of the United States had his own illegal slush fund which his subordinates used to bankroll political espionage; that high ranking executive department officials were privy to these illegalities, that a presidential "enemies list" existed, and that the executive branch used its powers to punish those enemies through tax audits and extra-legal investigations.

We had a president that had set himself above the law, a man who abused the trust of the people of the United States and his own oath of office. Fortunately, Mark Felt stood up and decided not to allow the FBI to be a tool in these dark schemes. In the shadowy cavern of a parking garage in Washington, DC, Mark Felt, risking his job, his reputation, his personal liberty (in a time before whistleblower protection laws) told Bob Woodward what the FBI had uncovered about Watergate, ensuring that its findings would not be suppressed.

In the late summer of 1974 when President Nixon's own party leaders in the Senate told him that impeachment was inevitable, he resigned, ending what had become an imperial presidency. The ship of state had righted itself; the system worked, however imperfectly.

Mark Felt's moment in history has a lesson for us. One man standing up to tyranny can make a difference, and the truth can indeed set us free.

#### TRIBUTE TO JULIE FITZGERALD

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Julie Fitzgerald of West Des Moines Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K-12 schools.

I congratulate Julie Fitzgerald on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Julie in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

IN HONOR OF DIANE YOUNG

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Diane Young of Pajaro, California. Diane passed away on January 28, 2009 at the age of sixty-five, after leaving the Pajaro community a better place to live and work. She was an extraordinary community leader who needed no official title to make a significant difference in the lives of every resident of Pajaro.

Diane was born on November 25, 1943 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She graduated from Southwest High School in Minneapolis. After meeting her late husband Pete, they both embarked on a path that would lead them to a small Central Coast community that could greatly benefit from their generosity of heart and tireless commitment to helping others achieve their dreams, particularly the youth of Pajaro.

In 1983, she launched Young's Tire Service with her husband and son in Pajaro, California. Diane Young prided herself on the family business, which she maintained and participated in throughout her illness. Her old school business habits were rooted in an unshakable work ethic. Because she did not rely on computers for her business operations, Young's Tire Service was able to continue serving the community through the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and a massive flood in 1995. There was never a shortage of customers congregating at the shop, and the influx of well wishers following her death speaks to how Diane touched the hearts of everyone she met.

It was Diane's business that became the catalyst for her lifelong community activism. After three violent killings, one of which occurred right outside her store, Diane decided she wanted to see a safer community, one filled with happiness and pride, not fear. She organized Together in Pajaro to accomplish this goal. TIP is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to community improvement and safety. Diane, along with her late husband Pete, founded Boy Scout Troop 505 15 years ago, to provide constructive alternatives for youth in Pajaro. These two organizations are just a small measure of Diane's dedication and contributions to making her community, as well as the lives of those who live in it, not only better but more meaningful.

Madam Speaker, Diane Young touched the hearts of everyone she came into contact with, and was a pillar of her community. I am certain I speak for the entire House in extending our heartfelt sympathy to Diane's two children, her son Pete Young of Pajaro, California and daughter Shelia Young of Oakley, California.

REGARDING IRAN'S ENDORSEMENT OF ANOTHER HOLOCAUST DENIAL CONFERENCE

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to share my profound disappointment in the con-

tinued extraordinary anti-Israel rhetoric and policies of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He is again endorsing a conference that denies the horror—indeed, the existence—of the Holocaust and that places blame for much of the world's woes with the people of Israel.

Tehran's Sharif University of Technology conference, entitled Holocaust? A Sacred Lie by the West, is in and of itself disturbing. It is evidence that the hatred that underlies the violence in the Middle East is, regrettably, alive and well. But, for the head of a nation to lend the imprimatur of government support to such an event is real cause for alarm. President Ahmadinejad, in his statement of support for the conference, stated that the "Zionist regime is the 'illegitimate child' of the Holocaust phenomenon." This is dangerous rhetoric.

There are millions of peace-loving peoples in the Middle East—Israelis, Palestinians, Iranians, Iraqis; indeed from every nation of the region. They will never be able to experience peace and security as long as hatred like this is spoken, taught, and endorsed by the leaders of the region.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has just announced his intention to run for another term as Iran's President. I am hopeful that the people of Iran will send him a message that they want to live in peace with their neighbors and that they want to put an end to the cycle of violence and hatred that conferences like this one epitomize.

## TRIBUTE TO LIZABETH FOX

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the excellence in education in the 4th Congressional District of Iowa, and to specifically congratulate Lizabeth Fox of Decorah Community School District, who earned the National Board Certification—the highest level of certification in the teaching profession.

National Board Certification is a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize and reward great teachers. National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) have successfully demonstrated advanced teaching knowledge, skills and practices. Certification is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. Certification is offered in 25 different subjects, covering 97 percent of the subjects taught in K–12 schools.

I congratulate Lizabeth Fox on her well-deserved certification, and I'm certain that she will continue to touch the lives of many youth in her community. It is a great honor to represent Lizabeth in the United States Congress, and I wish her continued success.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FERS RE-DEPOSIT ACT OF 2009

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the FERS Re-Deposit

Act, which will help incentivize former federal employees to return to the civil service by allowing them to buy back into the Federal Employee Retirement System.

In no short time, the federal government will face a serious workforce shortage crisis. In ten years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

The FERS Re-Deposit Act will begin to help with the coming workforce shortage. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the federal government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS).

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work in the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to re-entering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector and in businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the federal government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back into government service.

Madam Speaker, now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by supporting the FERS Re-Deposit Act.

IN COMMEMORATION OF MR. SANTONIO HOLMES

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2009*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the achievement of Mr. Santonio Holmes, who on February 1, 2009 was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XLIII.

Mr. Holmes was born in Belle Glade, FL, a part of my Congressional district. Mr. Holmes came from humble roots and through hard work and dedication, he made it to the National Football League (NFL). Mr. Holmes' athletic prowess and entrepreneurship developed from an early age; as a young boy growing up in Belle Glade, he would catch rabbits by hand